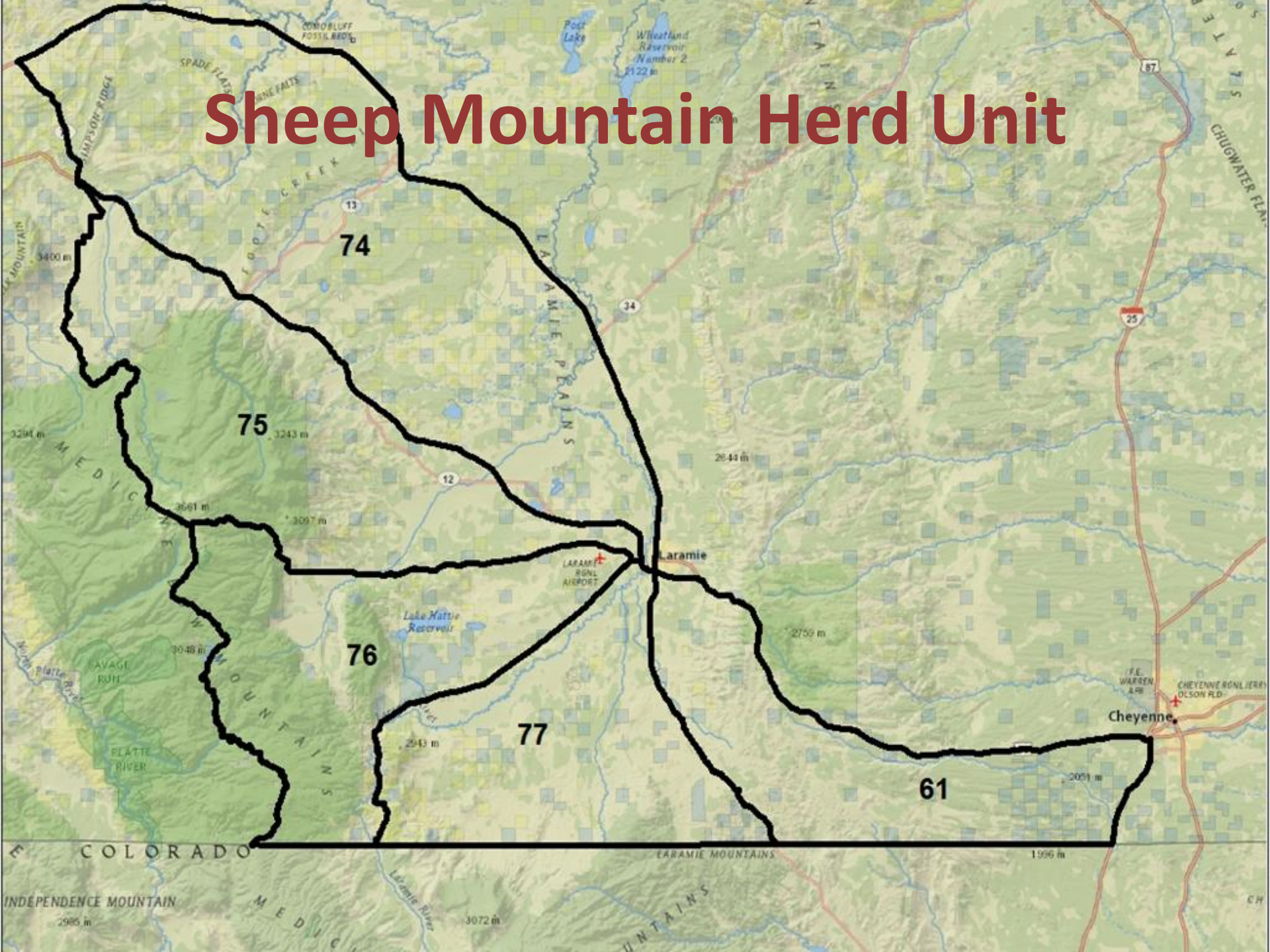


# Sheep Mountain Herd Unit



# Herd History

- 1941 Hunting Season
  - October 16<sup>th</sup> through November 16<sup>th</sup>
  - 50% of hunter from Cheyenne
  - 35% of hunters from Laramie

Past management was generally aimed at increasing numbers of deer through the 1930's and 1940's. During 1940 and 1941 concern was shown for critical deer ranges on Sheep Mountain in Area 76 and an increase in numbers of permits issued for any deer was recommended.

Area 74 has had a "closed area" that is almost historical, with the east portion closed to all deer hunting during the mid-1940's and 1950's until 1954.

# Herd History

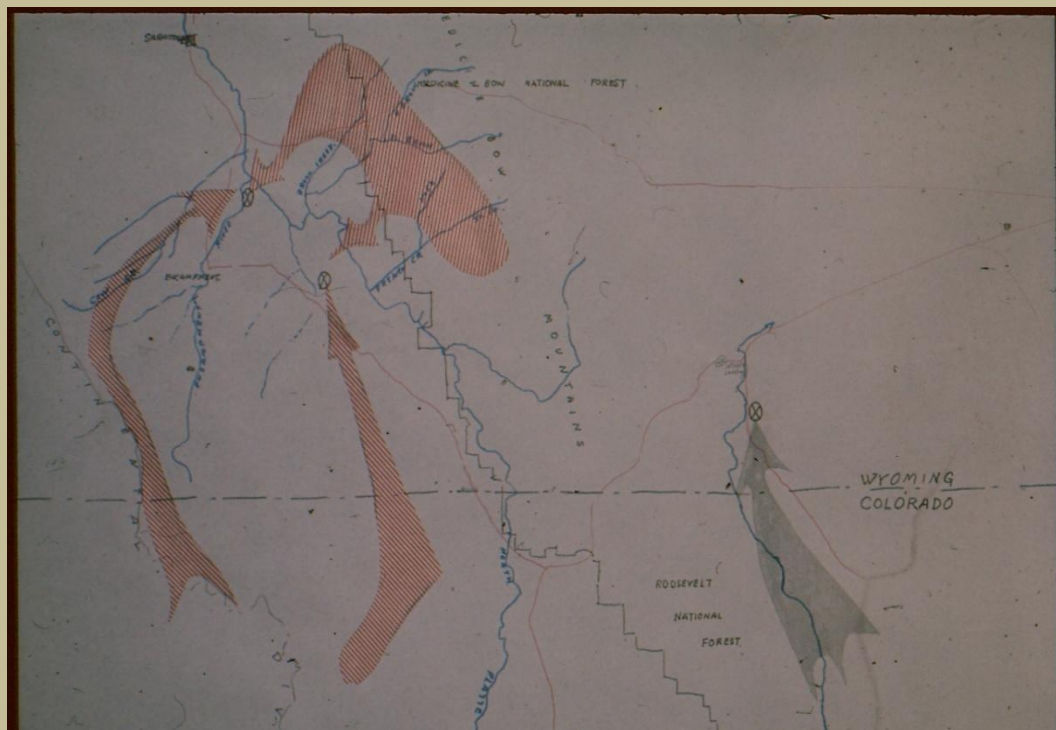
- 1967-1968 Research Project

Comments:

Deer were live trapped, collared and tagged in consecutive winters of 1967 and 1968. Spring dispersal of deer was principally to the south, and into Colorado. Secondary movements were to the east (Jelm Mountain) and to the west, (Boswell Creek.) Deer moved as far south to the North Portion of Rocky Mountain Park (Long Draw). Most of the deer moved southwesterly from the trapsites, along the west side of Jelm Mountain, into Colorado, and summered in the vicinity of Red Mountain, Middle Mountain, and Roach.

This indicated a mixing of deer that were marked on the Platte River sites during the same years, noticeably in the vicinity of the Roach. One deer crossed the hydrographic divide between the Platte and Laramie Rivers and spent the summer in the south end of North Park, near Pole Mountain Lake.





# Herd History

- 1978-1982 5 year mean
  - Population – 7,650 Objective 10,000
  - Harvest- 860 Objective 1,500
  - Hunters 3,070 Objective 3,000
  - Hunter Success 28%, Objective 50%
  - Parts of 78 were in 76 until 84
  - 14 day season, Hunt Area 61 and 74 is limited quota

# Herd History

- 1984
  - Hunt Area 74 goes general
  - Late season hunt in 75, 76
  - The boundary between the Platte Valley herd unit and the Sheep Mountain herd unit is changed from the Platte River to the current boundary of road 512 and Douglas cr.
  - I-80 is the biggest cause of non-hunting related mortalities in the herd unit
  - Subdivisions increasing in critical winter range

# Herd History

- 1987
  - Population Objective changed from 10,000 to 15,000 due to landowner and public comments

This herd unit has never had a high success rate. The 1983 to 1987 average was 28.6%. In 1987 the success rate was 27.6% compared to the state-wide average of 61.3%. In 1988 we project a success rate of 35%, based on the assumption that the either-sex deer hunt in Area 74 will improve overall hunter success. The objective is 50% and is based on either-sex deer hunting on National Forest land.

# Herd History

- 1988 -1992
  - Hunter success averaged 30%
  - Wildlife under passes and wildlife proof fence was constructed along I-80 near the cooper hill exit during the summer of 1989. Over the previous 15 years, on average 150 mule deer mortalities would occur as they attempted to access traditional winter range. The following winter of 1990 only 5 mortalities were documented along the same stretch of highway.
  - Boundary of 74 changed to include everything north of I-80 and boundary of 75 changed to include the Medicine Bow River Drainage



# Herd History

- 2013
  - New Population model
  - Boundary updated between 75 and 79 to coincide with elk hunt area 11 and 12 boundary

# Sheep Mountain

## Mule Deer Management

### RECREATIONAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

- Objective- 15,000 mule deer post-hunt
- 20-29 bucks per 100 does post-hunt
- Optimize hunting opportunities



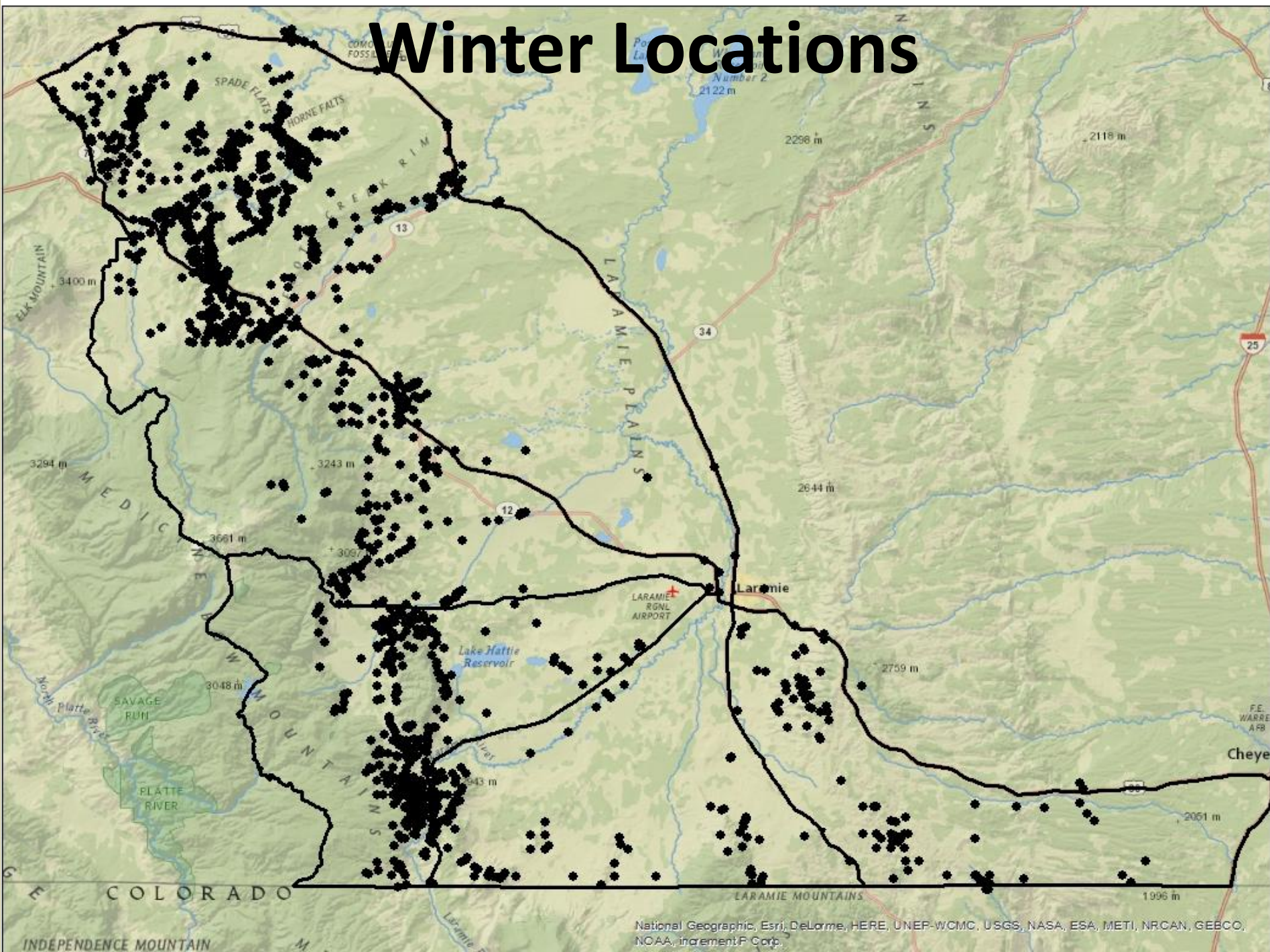
### MONITORING & EVALUATION

- Annual buck & fawn ratios post-hunt
- Harvest information
- Shrub production/utilization surveys
- Complications: Winter migration of mule deer to and from Colorado

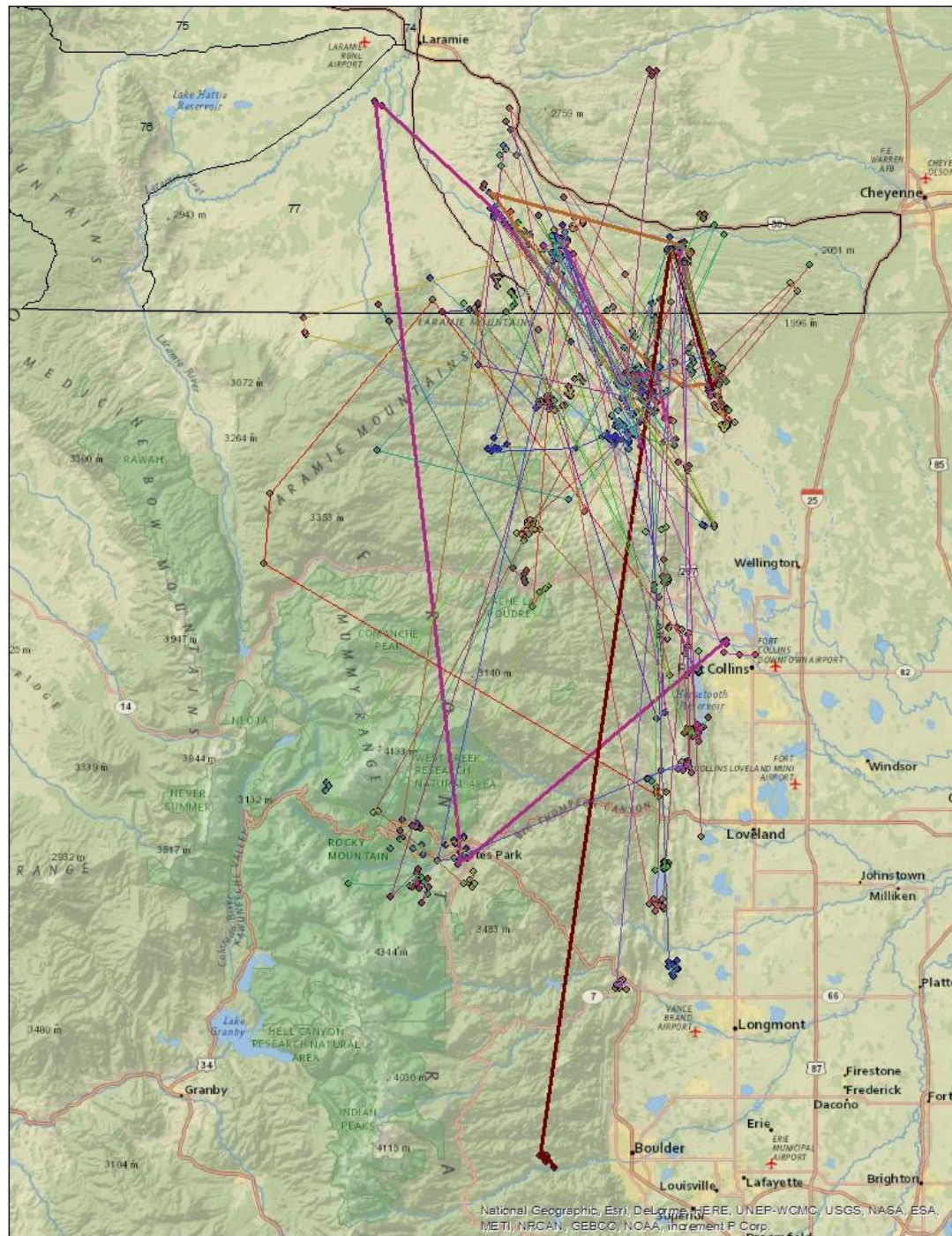




# Winter Locations

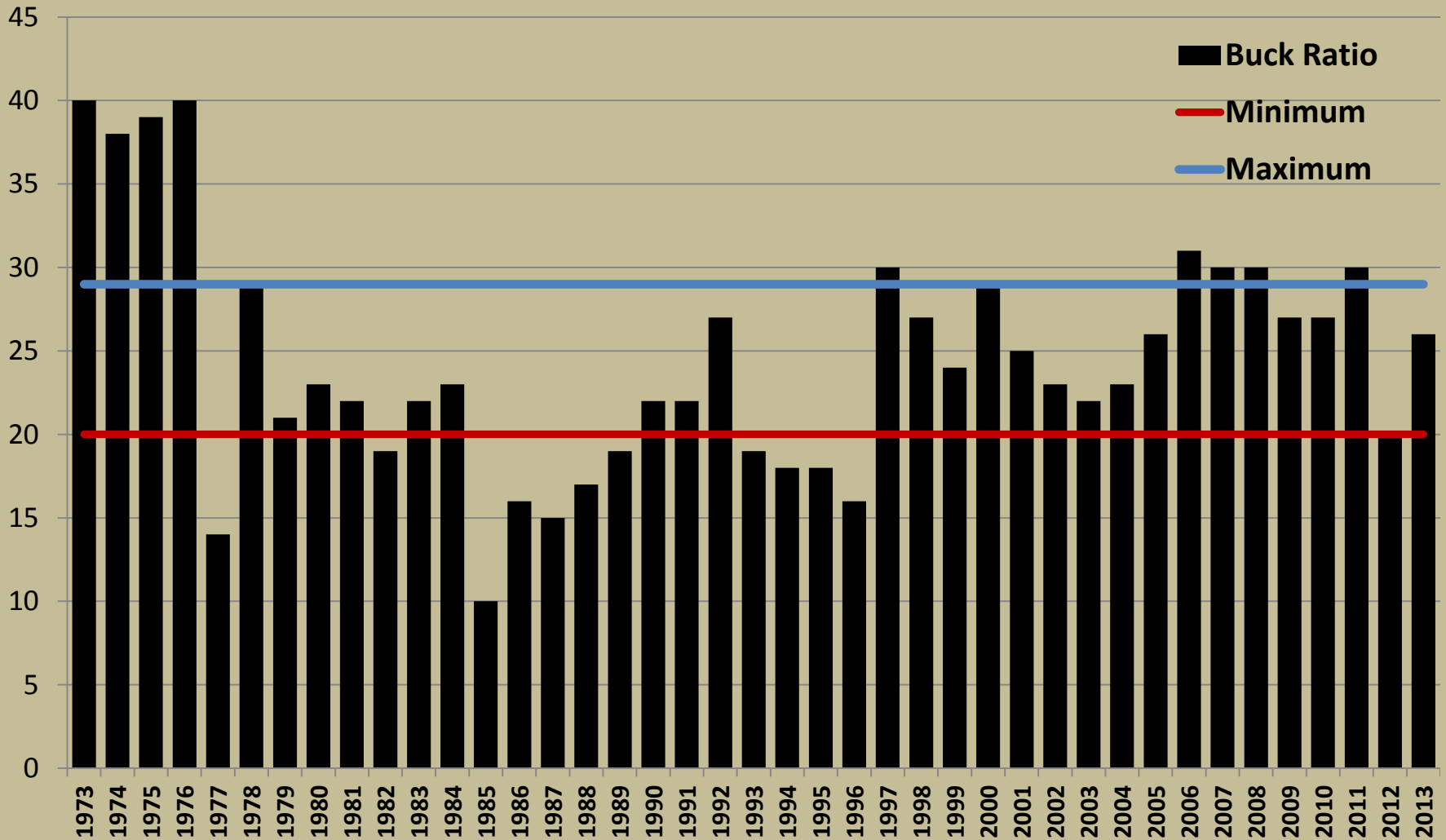






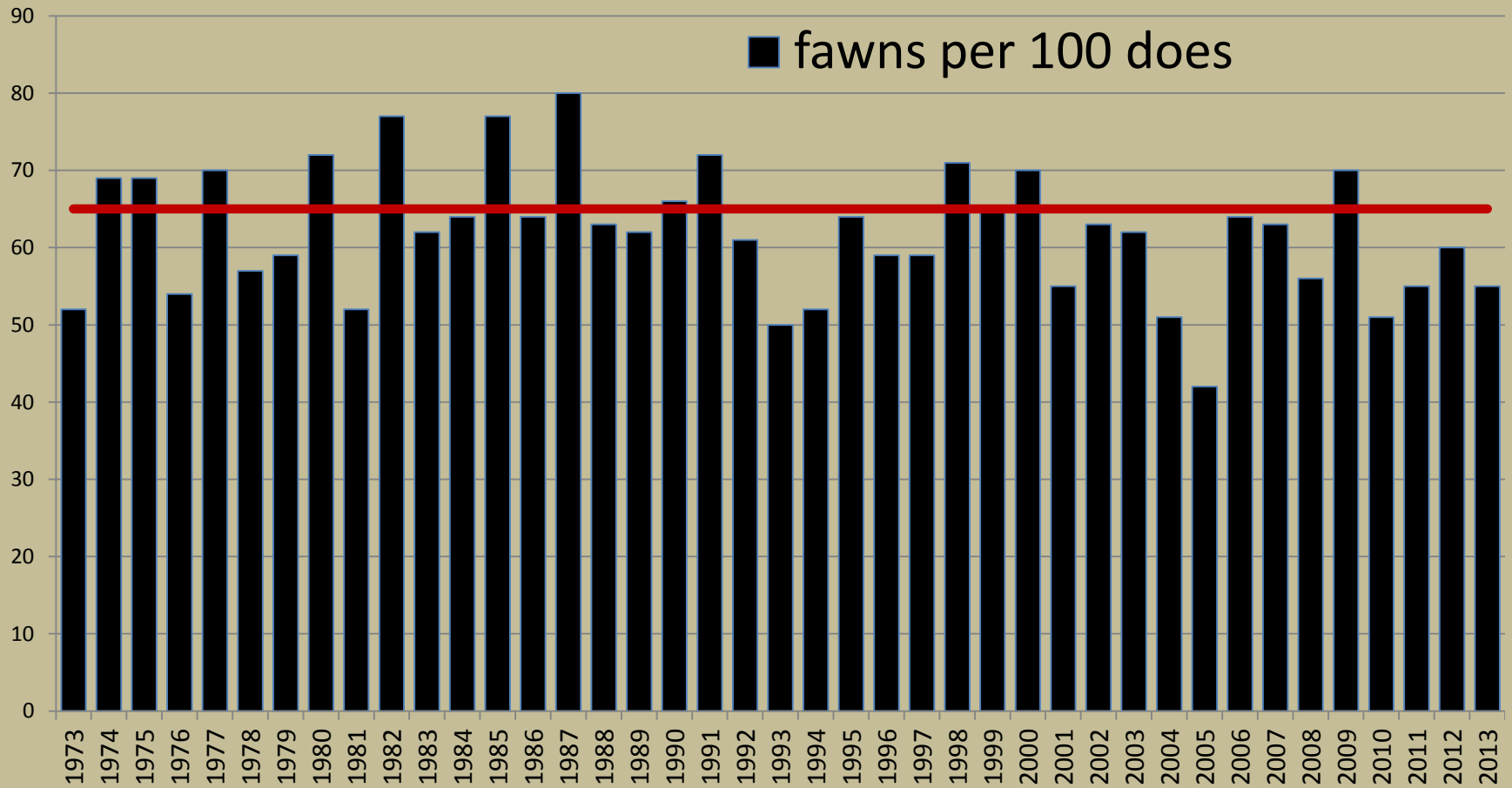
# Buck Ratio

- Class 1( $\leq 19''$ ) 129 69%
- Class 2(20''-25'') 42 22%
- Class 3( $\geq 26''$ ) 16 9%
- TOTAL 187

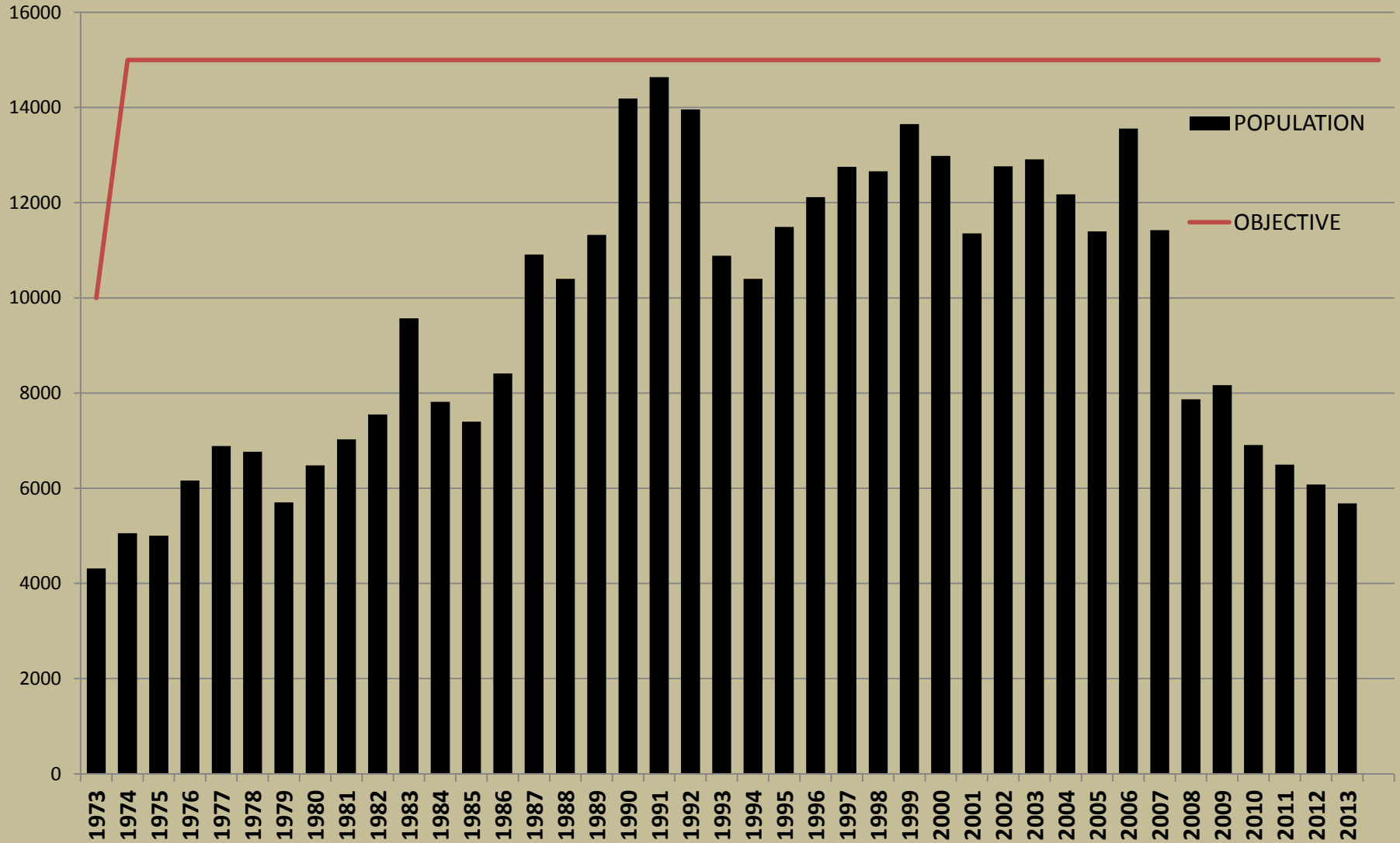




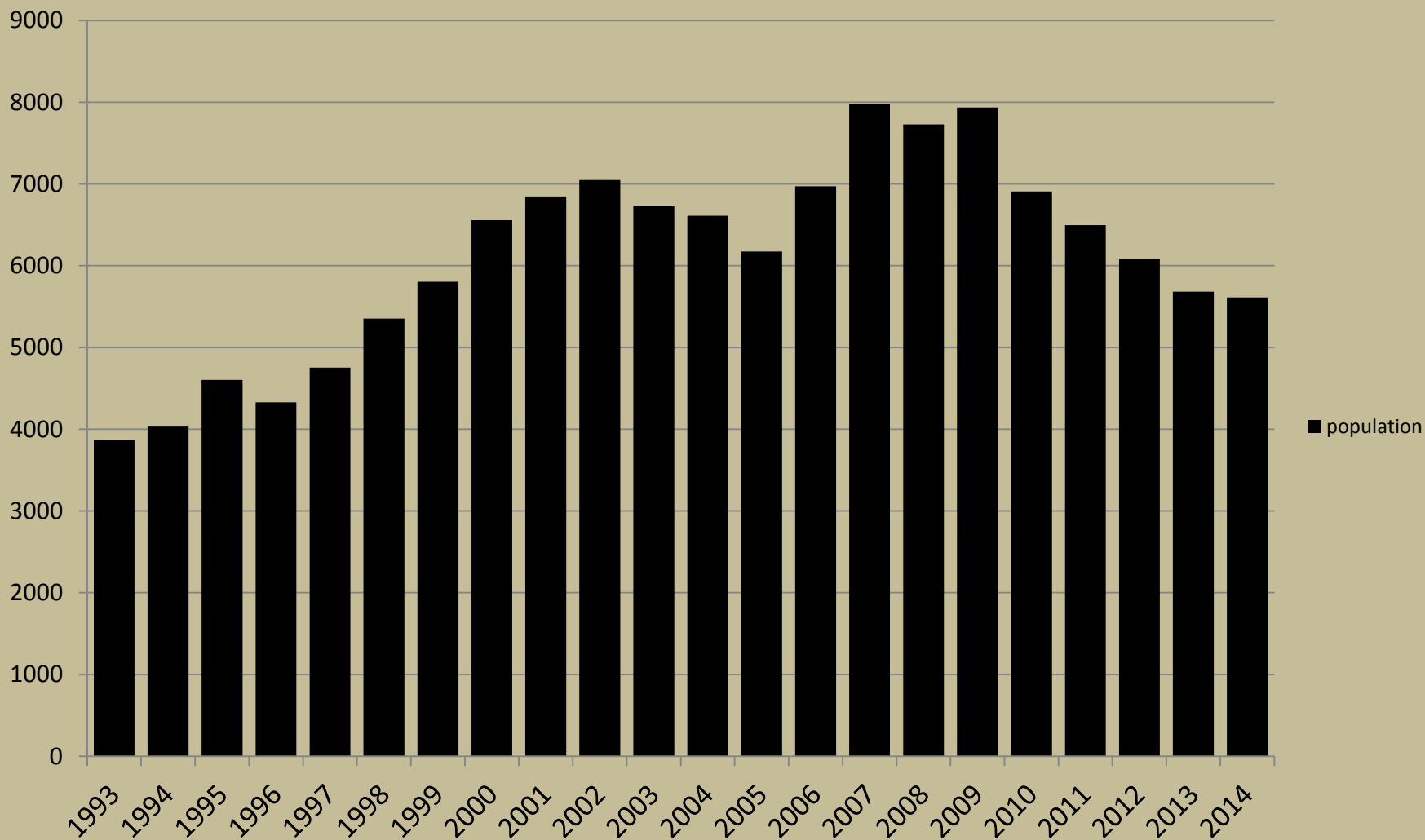
# FAWN RATIO



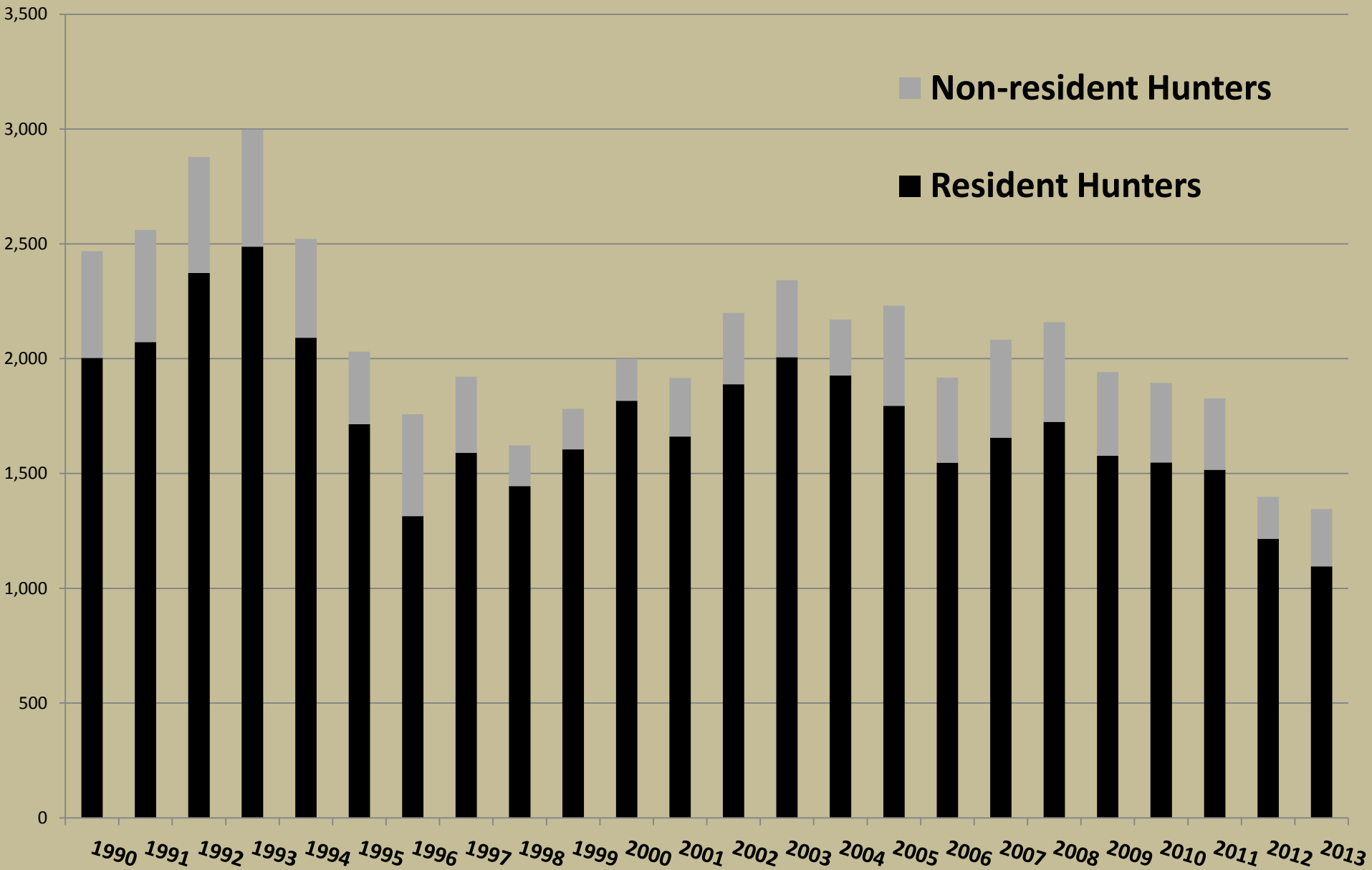
# Historical Population



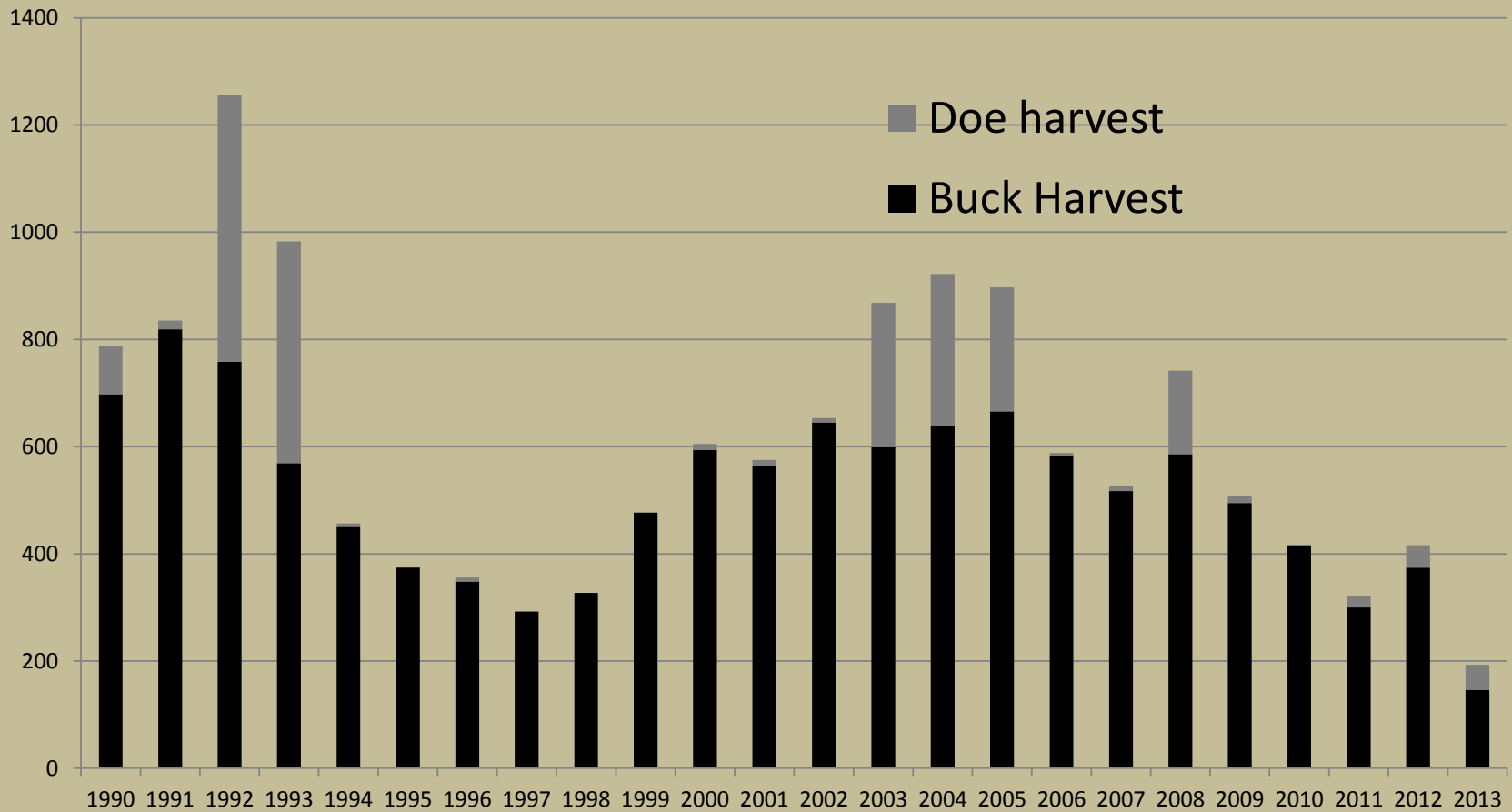
# Population



# Number of Hunters

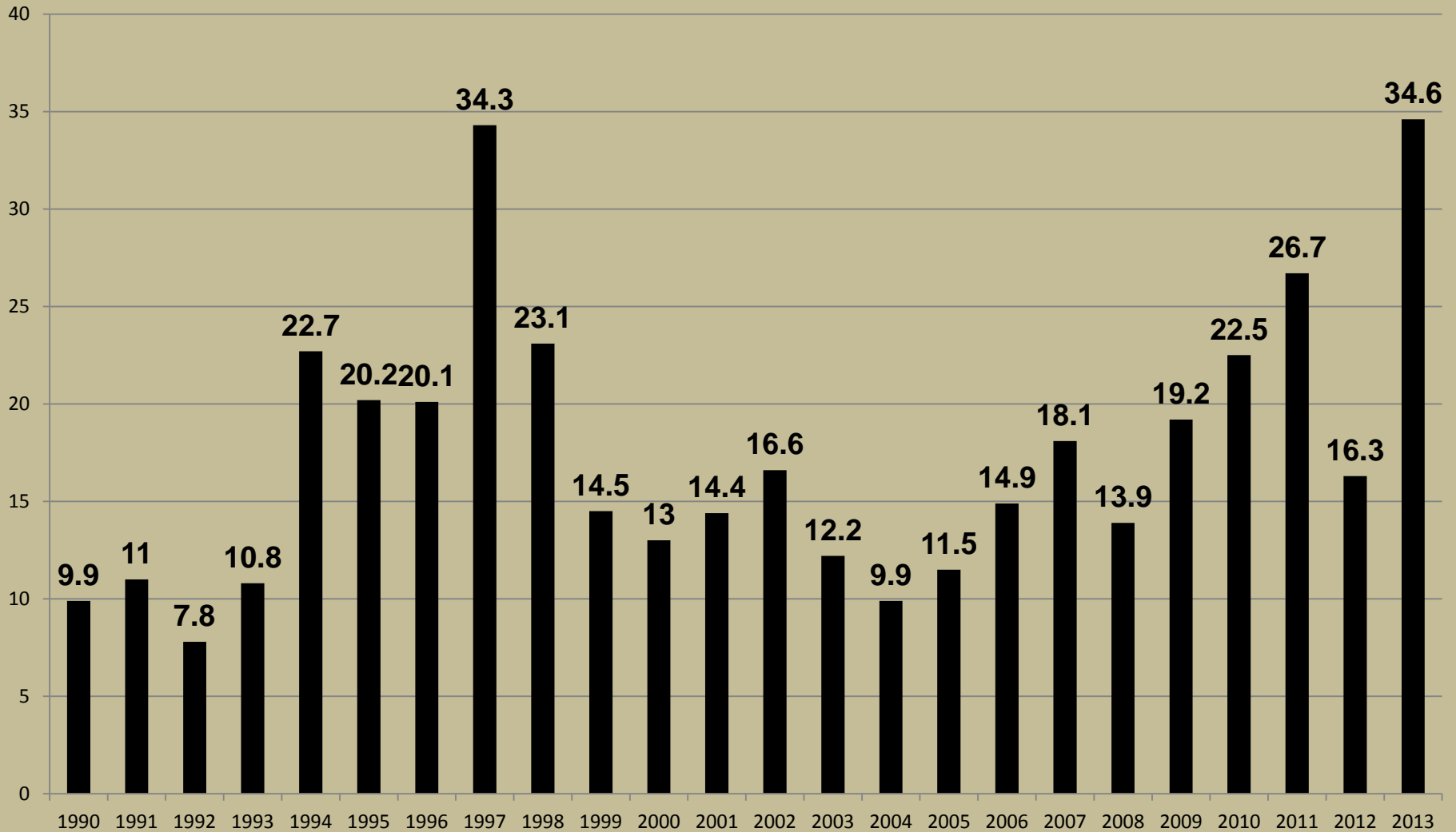


# Harvest

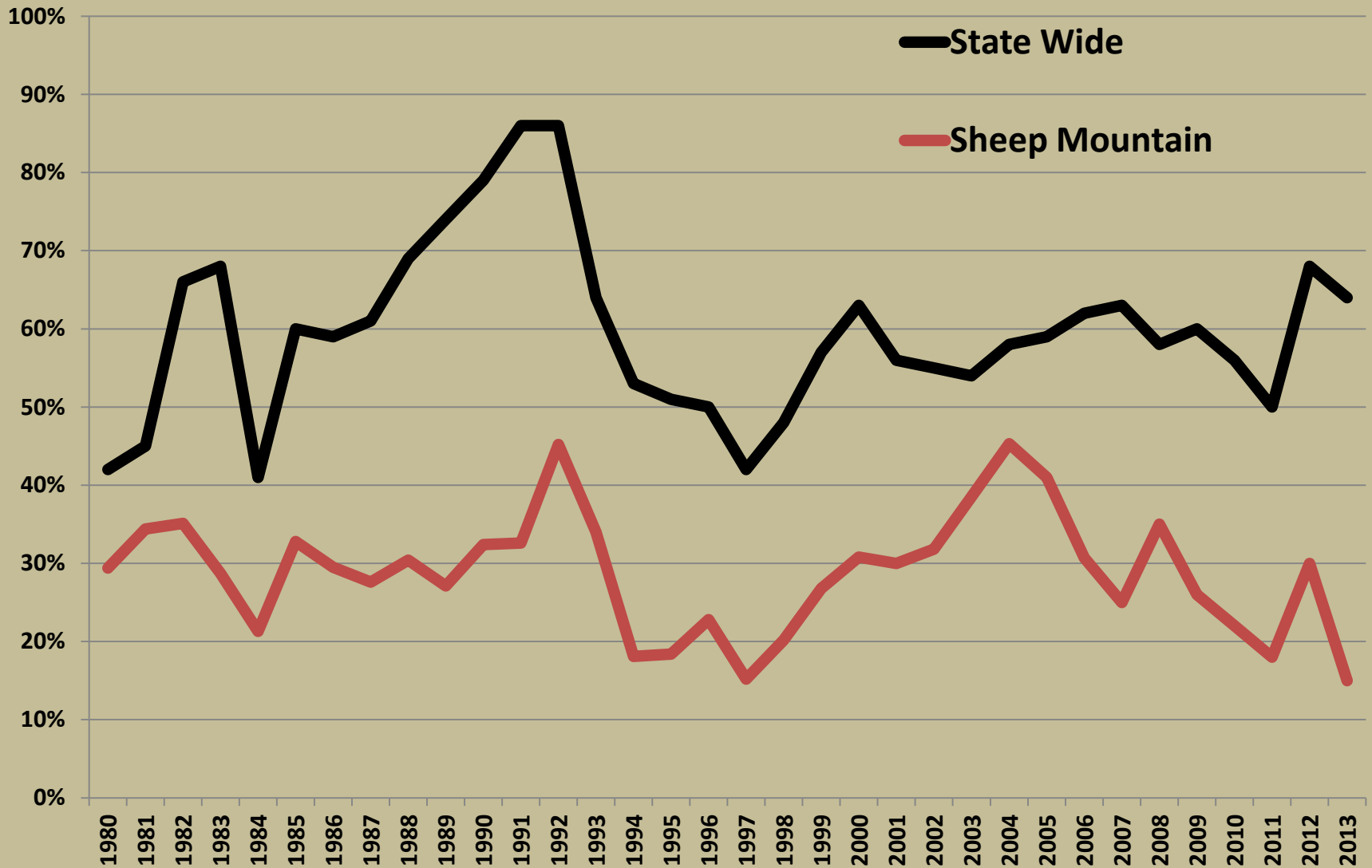




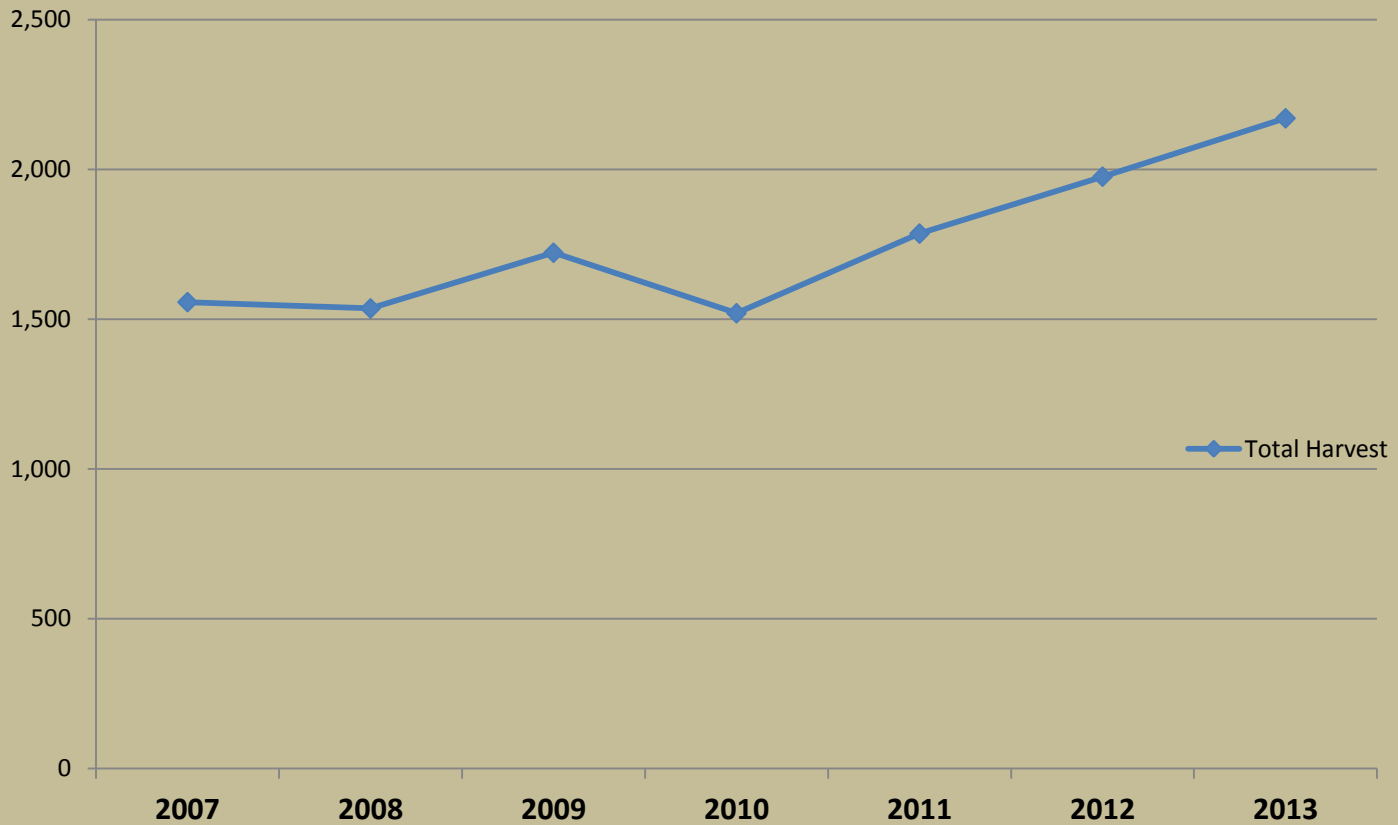
# Hunter Effort by Days



# HUNTER SUCCESS



# Snowy Range Elk Harvest



# Drought Index from 1941 to Present

